47. The agricultural needs of the Mavelikara taluk.

Mr. Kanakku Kerulan Govindan (Member, Mavelikara Taluk) began by thanking the Government for pursuing a liberal policy in the matter of improving the industrial and economic condition of the people, and for paying increased attention to agriculture. He then observed that the chief need of the agriculturist in North and Central Travancore was improved means of irrigation, represented that the irrigation and drainage facilities in those parts were utterly neglected by Government, and suggested the appointment of an Agricultural Engineering Agency to go into the whole question.

The Member then made the following specific recommendations for the improvement of agriculture in the Mavelikara taluk.

(i) *Improving the Arattukadavu-Todiyur (Parayankari) canal.*—

With regard to this the Member observed that during the administration of Dewan Mr. P. Rajagopalachari the Government sanctioned the improvement of the canal, but only 3 or 4 miles of it were repaired about three years ago and that the balance of the work remained to be done. He prayed for the speedy improvement of the canal, as the large tracts of paddy fields on either side of the unfinished portion of the canal remained uncultivated, since their irrigation depended on this canal.

(ii) *Opening an outlet to Karingalichal punja*:—

This was a vast expanse of *punja* land measuring more than 1,000 acres surrounded on all sides by hilly tracts: an outlet was extremely necessary, as otherwise all the rainfall over the surrounding hills collected on the *punja* fields and overflowed the central canal which joined the river at Iranikuti. This portion of the river being silted up, the bed of the river was higher than that of the *punja* and the canal, so that water could not be drained away in time, and during the monsoon the fields got inundated and the crops were ruined. The Member suggested that the mouth of the canal might be diverted and another canal, a mile or so in length, might be opened to meet the river at a portion where the bed of the river was lower. The proposed canal would be a great boon to the ryots of the Nuranad, Tonnallur, Pantalam and Chunakkara *pakuthies*.

(iii) *Improving the canal at Tazhakkarapadam.* The lower portion of the canal was silted up, thereby causing great inconvenience to the ryots, and the Member prayed for the improvement of the same.

The Member also suggested the following works:—

(iv) Constructing groynes at Prayikara or diverting the course of the river so as to stop encroachments on the banks;

(v) Deepening the silted up portion of Taraimukku canal.

Dewan's reply.—It cannot but be conceded that the policy in regard to these canals and the conservancy of water and of its drainage has been one of drift. I do admit that these matters require much more attention than the P.W. Department has devoted to it in the past. As I have said, I am contemplating certain measures with a view to secure greater attention to the works referred to by you. Government will see what can be done in the matter. I am, however, unable to give a definite promise. In regard to the works of the Parayankari river, funds have been sanctioned. I shall see that works to the amount of those funds at least are carried out this year.

48. Agricultural needs of the Chengannur Taluk.

Mr. K. P. Narayana Pillai (Member, Chengannur Taluk) pointed out that the ryots of the Chengannur taluk, which is bounded by three big rivers, the Pamba river on the northern side, the Achankoil river on the southern side and the Kuttanperur river on the western side joining the first two, had been suffering heavy losses for the past 70 years on account of inundation during the rainy season and scarcity of water during the hot season. There were 17,000 *paras* of cultivable

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paddy lands in that taluk in the Vadakkekara, Pandanad, Chengannur and Puliyur *pakuthies*, out of which 7,000 *paras* were *punja* lands and the remaining double crop *virippu* lands. Though there were rivers on three sides, there were no facilities to take the required water for irrigation purposes from them and to drain away the excess water from the fields during the rainy season. In consequence both the Kanni and Makaram crops suffered heavily. A *thodu* known as Illemattera *thodu* had been once in existence which started from the Pamba river and after passing through the above mentioned tracts joined the Kuttanperur river. It had become completely silted up owing to the annual floods in the Pamba river. The owners of adjacent lands had slowly encroached on the *thodu*, but in consequence of action recently taken under the Land Conservancy Regulation, the encroachments had been removed. The *thodu* was 40 feet wide and covered a length of nearly 5 miles. Its improvement would cost about Rs. 10,000. The Member suggested that, if that *thodu* could be improved, it would serve about 17,000 *paras* of land and the difficulties which they were experiencing would be removed. He also stated that, if necessary, the ryots of the locality were prepared to pay a cess. In conclusion, the Member requested that the Director of Agriculture might be deputed to make the necessary suggestions for the improvement of the *thodu*.

Dewan's reply.—I shall look into the question of the improvement of the canal you have mentioned.

49. Need for establishing a Veterinary Hospital at Kuttattukulam.

Mr. Avira Mathai (Member, Muvattupuzha Taluk) began by thanking the Government for the considerate manner in which their representations were heard and disposed of. He pointed out that, in point of area and population, Muvattupuzha is one of the important taluks of the State and that the chief occupation of the people was agriculture. It was, therefore, necessary for them to maintain well-bred cattle, especially in view of the extensive cultivation rendered necessary owing to increase of population. The frequency of cattle epidemics had become a source of great hardship to the farmers. Diseases such as *paduvan*, stomach-ache, fever, boil on the neck, foot and mouth disease, etc., were prevalent to a dangerous extent and mortality was considerable. The people of Kuttattukulam found it very difficult to carry diseased cattle to the Pala, Perumpavur or Kottayam Veterinary Hospital, as each of them was 20 or more miles away from that place. The Member, therefore, requested that a veterinary hospital be established at Kuttattukulam.

Dewan's reply.—There are veterinary dispensaries at Pala, Minachil, Kottayam and Perumpavur. Minachil is only 26 miles from Kuttattukulam. The Director of Agriculture is of opinion that there is no necessity for a veterinary hospital or dispensary at Kuttattukulam. He, however, says that he would direct the veterinary officer in charge of the dispensary at Pala to spend one week every month at Kuttattukulam. He now visits that place occasionally. We shall ask him to regularly remain there for 7 days every month.

50. Grievances of the Cardamom Ryots.

Mr. S. P. Sultan Ahamed Badrudin Rowther (Member, Devicolam Taluk) dwelt at length on the hardships suffered by the poor and ignorant cardamom ryots on account of the dual control exercised by the Revenue and Forest Departments over the Cardamom area included within the Cardamom Hills and Periyar Reserves. The Forest Department solely aimed at the revenue due to it and cared little for the welfare of the ryots and they often framed charges against them, of which, in many cases, they were ignorant until written notices reached them. It was the Revenue Department that collected the revenue from the ryots and it would, therefore, be well if the sole administration of the Cardamom area was vested in that Department, as

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